

For immediate release

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Three GreenSpot Businesses Recognized for Commitment to Get Green

Mayor Michael B. Coleman presented the third annual GreenSpotLight awards last evening to three local businesses during the 2,000th GreenSpot Celebration at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Members of Mayor Coleman's Green Team selected one small, medium and large-sized business whose commitment demonstrates excellence in business practices that produce environmental benefits. Based on information provided in 2010 GreenSpot annual reports, those businesses are: First English Lutheran Church, The Nature Conservancy and ms consultants, inc.

"GreenSpot provides a framework for businesses to use to take practical steps toward lessening their environmental impact," Mayor Coleman said. "I am proud of the three businesses receiving recognition today and we hope others will follow the example they set in their commitment to get green."

Mayor Coleman launched GreenSpot in July 2008 as part of his Get Green Columbus initiative. Developed to inspire, educate and recognize those in our community who are taking steps to protect our environment, the Web-based program now has 2,070 members taking steps toward protecting the health and future of our community.

Kristi Higginbotham, Outreach and Programs Manager at the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, chairs the committee charged with selecting outstanding businesses.

"There are many GreenSpot businesses changing everyday behavior to conserve energy, conserve and protect water and reduce waste," Higginbotham said. "They each have a story to tell and today we shine a spotlight on three that stand out as driving positive environmental change in our community."

GreenSpot businesses not only provide real environmental benefits to Columbus, they also have a competitive advantage. Some examples include:

- In 2010 First English Lutheran Church implemented a system for measuring and tracking the amount of materials they recycled. They established Cornerstone Farm, a community produce garden, and began publishing *First Green Seeds*, a monthly e-news article on sustainability. "Living Earth: A Lenten Journey" was a celebration of creation which included a sermon series on Care of Creation, information for daily devotion and resources for personal use.
- The Nature Conservancy staff conducted an assessment of their Ohio operations' carbon footprint. Their 2009 calculation gave baseline numbers and in 2010 they realized a reduction of 29.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. In 2010 they performed an initial waste audit study of their main office which serves as a baseline and helped staff determine their short-term and long-term priorities for waste reduction.
- ms consultants, inc. fully implemented a video conferencing system that allows each employee to communicate between offices in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, North

Carolina and West Virginia without the need to travel. Implementation of their intranet site has reduced the need for paper memos and news announcements. With completion of their Energy Star portfolio, they have set goals for the future and devised a plan to apply for the Energy Star label.

To apply for a GreenSpot, businesses can visit www.columbusgreenspot.org.